

SECRET

14. Question. What aircraft were available for possible response to the attack? What military commanders made the decision not to send available aircraft to the aid of the Pueblo? When were these decisions made? Who gave the order to divert the USS Enterprise? When was this decision made? Was this the decision of the Secretary of Defense or the President, or were they informed after the carrier had been diverted? Was the Pueblo flying the United States flag throughout its mission?

Answer. For the reasons given in response to Question 12, an attack on the Pueblo was not anticipated and no aircraft were on alert status to provide emergency assistance. Upon receiving the Pueblo's call for help, the field commanders made the decision that it would not be possible to get effective help to her before darkness fell and she was taken into Wansan harbor. They also made the decision to divert the Enterprise and immediately informed the Department of Defense and the White House.

If the Committee desires a detailed briefing on the dispositions of U.S. aircraft and other forces in the general area of Korea at the time of the Pueblo seizure, the Department of State will consult with the Department of Defense on appropriate arrangements.

State Department review completed

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As is customary, the Pueblo was not flying the U.S. flag during normal operations at sea. When the North Korean craft demanded identification of nationality, the Pueblo responded by hoisting the U.S. ensign.